

STATE SALEYARDS STRATEGY

**87. Hon MURRAY CRIDDLE to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:**

I left a note in the minister's office regarding this question; I hope he got it.

**Hon Kim Chance:** No, I didn't, but feel free.

**Hon MURRAY CRIDDLE:** I refer to my question last week regarding the Muchea and Northam saleyards.

- (1) Does the state saleyards strategy, which includes the Katanning saleyards, still apply?
- (2) Will the minister confirm his support for the proposed relocation and upgrade of the Katanning saleyards?
- (3) Will the minister also confirm, as he has for the Northam project, that a \$4 million commitment to the Katanning project would not be unreasonable?

**Hon KIM CHANCE replied:**

I apologise to Hon Murray Criddle; I did in fact receive notice of the question, for which I thank him.

- (1) Yes.
- (2) As the member is aware, I confirmed late last year that investment had been prioritised towards establishing a sheep and cattle facility at Muchea to replace the Midland saleyards. I also recognised the deteriorating state of regional livestock saleyards. The Midland saleyards relocation provides an opportunity to consider support for the primary regional saleyards - that is, as per the state saleyards strategy. It is intended that surplus capital from the sale of the current land at Midland will be dedicated to assist with the development of the primary regional sheep saleyards at Katanning, primary regional cattle saleyards at Mt Barker and the single south west facility. This approach will assist the regional saleyards to address operational issues identified in the state saleyards strategy released in July 2006 by the Western Australia Meat Industry Authority.
- (3) The government has not committed any funds to the Northam saleyards proposal. What I actually said was that I thought \$4 million would be a reasonable figure to discuss, but there is no commitment of funds as such. In relation to the proposed new sheep facility at Katanning, the specific level of assistance available for the primary regional saleyards can be determined only after the Muchea facility is operational and the Midland saleyards land is sold. That will not prevent me speaking to the shire about its needs. The expected level of funding will only part-fund new regional facilities, and the majority of the capital will still need to be provided by the proponents. The quantum of funding will also be dependent on the Shire of Katanning's detailed business case and on discussions between the government and the shire about the project and the shire's needs.